



## E-NEWS from *Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn*

An electronic legislative update for May 1, 2003.

**Did you know...**

To date, the AMBER alert is credited with helping to reunite 64 children with their parents.

### **PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS JENNIFER'S AMBER ALERT LEGISLATION**

#### *Jennifer Participates in Rose Garden Ceremony*

Earlier this week, Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn joined President Bush, Attorney General John Ashcroft and families who support local AMBER alert programs, for an AMBER alert bill signing ceremony at the White House Rose Garden. Also in attendance were Ed and Lois Smart and their daughter, Elizabeth, who was recently reunited with her family after having been abducted in Salt Lake City. Congresswoman Dunn authored the AMBER alert legislation that makes the program available to communities nationwide.



Pictured with Jennifer is Jacqueline Marris, who was abducted at gun point last summer in California and quickly found by police after an AMBER alert was launched. Jacqueline also participated in the AMBER alert signing ceremony.



Following the AMBER alert signing ceremony, Congresswoman Dunn released the following statement:

*“Parents with young children have waited a long time for this day. A rewarding aspect of public service is to be a part of legislation that will truly make a difference in people’s lives. The AMBER alert bill does just that. It is credited with helping to reunite 64 children with their parents. Now, every community throughout the nation will have access to this invaluable tool.*

*“This bill is the culmination of hard work from Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate Members, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and most importantly, Ed Smart. Ed took the traumatic experience of his daughter’s abduction and turned it into a fight to help other parents of missing and abducted children.*

*“It is my hope that one day, there will not be a need for legislation named after little children who have died. The AMBER alert will help us with this goal.”*

Earlier this week, Jennifer addressed members of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, who were in Washington, DC for an annual meeting. Jennifer discussed her position as Vice Chair of the Homeland Security Committee and outlined some of the issues the committee will examine in the coming weeks. She also addressed the President’s jobs and growth package under consideration by Congress.



# What is going on this week :

## **THE US HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO IMPROVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

The US House has approved a bill that reauthorizes the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The bill improves the law by decreasing the amount of paperwork that is required of special education teachers, encourages more good teachers to become qualified to teach disabled students, and it places more emphasis on education by reducing burdensome regulations. The bill also ensures that only students who are truly disabled are educated in special education class settings. In addition, the bill encourages schools to create or expand programs that help parents become involved in their child's education. Jennifer voted in support of the legislation.

## **PRESIDENT BUSH'S PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE \$15 BILLION TO FIGHT AIDS AROUND THE WORLD IS APPROVED BY THE US HOUSE**

The US House has approved President Bush's plan to provide funding to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS throughout the world. It is estimated that the worldwide death toll from AIDS is 25 million in total and 8,500 daily. The death toll is highest in sub-Saharan Africa, but the problem is growing rapidly in Russia, India, and China. Closer to the US, the Caribbean region has the second highest rate of HIV infections in the world. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is an enormous public threat, but it also threatens the stability of many governments, particularly those in Africa. This bill provides a total of \$15 billion--\$3 billion a year for the next five years—to fight the disease. It provides dollars for treatment for people living with AIDS, funds to educate individuals about how to prevent infection, and emphasizes the need to keep families together, with the particular focus on the assistance needs of children and young people with AIDS.

# Summary of Press Releases:

## **JENNIFER DUNN WORKS TO INCLUDE HELP FOR DISLOCATED AVIATION-INDUSTRY WORKERS IN SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BILL**

The US House recently approved an emergency wartime supplemental spending bill to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and provide additional dollars for Homeland Security. The \$79 billion measure also included a 26-week extension of unemployment benefits for dislocated aviation-industry workers, cosponsored by Dunn. Eligible workers will include displaced Boeing workers and airline industry subcontractors who have exhausted all state and federal benefits. Jennifer recently joined with her Ways and Means colleague, Congressman Phil English (R-PA) to introduce a measure providing these additional benefits to aviation workers. "There are many workers who through no fault of their own, still find themselves without work, and their families continue to face difficult times. Aviation industry workers have been particularly hard hit. These additional weeks of benefits will be welcome news to these workers who are trying to get back on their feet," said Jennifer.